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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,631	03/23/2004	Neal H. Avery	52206/THD/A631	4033

23363 7590 12/14/2005
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EXAMINER

PHAM, MINH CHAU THI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,631

Applicant(s)

AVERY, NEAL H.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,9-13,15,16,18,19,21-27,31-48 and 50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 8, 14, 17, 20, 28-30 and 49 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-13, 15, 18, 19, 21-22, 24-27, 31-44, 46-48 and 50 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinclair (5,567,230), in view of Reeves (5,912,369).

Sinclair discloses an air filter system (10) configured to clamp to an airline air nozzle (52) comprising a two-part housing (12, 14) and a filter (16) held between the first (14) and second sections (12) of the housing wherein the first and second sections of the two-part housing are separable from one another to facilitate removal and replacement of the filter media, and wherein the housing is configured to direct air from the air supply nozzle (52) through the filter medium (16), and a mounting guide (34).

Sinclair further discloses the filter medium is a disposable medium comprising an electrostatically charged polypropylene non-woven membrane (col. 3, lines 49-52).

Sinclair also discloses a method for filtering air comprising the steps of clamping a filter medium to an air supply nozzle, directing air from the air supply nozzle through the filter medium wherein the filter medium is contained within a separable two-part housing, and adjusting air flow by turning the housing having pivoting air outlet nozzle which is attached to the housing to facilitate aiming of air exiting the housing (see Figs. 3-5).

Sinclair further discloses the first and second housing members could permanently bonded together by any conventional means including adhesives, thermal bonding, retaining members, etc. (col. 5, lines 18-25). Claims 1, 3-6, 9-13, 15, 18, 19, 21-22, 24-

27, 31-44, 46-48 and 50 differ from the disclosure of Sinclair in that the air filter system has an adhesive foam pad disposed on the exterior surface of the inlet port. Reeves discloses that the filter media can be foam gasket. Reeves further discloses an adhesive formed upon the foam gasket for attaching the air filter system to an air supply ventilation nozzle. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply an adhesive as taught by Reeves upon the foam gasket of the air filter system of Sinclair since the adhesive promotes the attachment of the filter media to the ventilation nozzle without the need of any tools.

Claims 2, 16, 23 and 45 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinclair (5,567,230), in view of Benasutti (6,093,227).

Claims 2, 16, 23 and 45 call for detents to hold the two parts of the filter housing together. Benasutti discloses a bayonet detents to hold the two parts of the housing together (12, 14, 16, 43, 44, 52, 58, 60 & 70 in Fig. 2, col. 1, lines 11-24, col. 3, line 8 through col. 4, line 33, col. 4, line 56 through col. 5, line 19). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a bayonet detents as taught by Benasutti in the filter housing of Sinclair since the detents would promote the filter housing assembly for disassembly for easily filter change out.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 8, 14, 17 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior arts discloses an air directional nozzle attached to an outlet port of the filter housing and movable relative to the outlet port.

Claims 28-30 and 49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior arts discloses the air filter system comprising a plurality of fingers extending from the filter housing and a clamp sleeve urging the plurality of fingers to move inwardly so as to grasp the air supply nozzle when the sleeve is moved.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed on October 20, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant basically argues that the primary reference "Sinclair discloses a connecting member 46 sized to snugly fit over the outlet 50 and the air filter unit 10 is frictionally attached to the outlet 50, and does not contemplate any other means for engaging the filter housing to an air nozzle other than friction fit between the inlet nozzle and the air nozzle". The Examiner respectfully points out that the Sinclair reference is introduced as a primary reference to show: An air filter system (10) configured to clamp to an airline air nozzle (52) comprising a two-part housing (12, 14) and a filter (16) held between the first (14) and second sections (12) of the housing wherein the first and second sections of the two-part housing are separable from one another to facilitate

removal and replacement of the filter media, and wherein the housing is configured to direct air from the air supply nozzle (52) through the filter medium (16), and a mounting guide (34). Sinclair further discloses the filter medium is a disposable medium comprising an electrostatically charged polypropylene non-woven membrane (col. 3, lines 49-52). Sinclair also discloses a method for filtering air comprising the steps of clamping a filter medium to an air supply nozzle, directing air from the air supply nozzle through the filter medium wherein the filter medium is contained within a separable two-part housing, and adjusting air flow by turning the housing having pivoting air outlet nozzle which is attached to the housing to facilitate aiming of air exiting the housing (see Figs. 3-5). Sinclair further discloses the first and second housing members could permanently bonded together by any conventional means including adhesives, thermal bonding, retaining members, etc. (col. 5, lines 18-25). The Examiner then introduces Reeves as the secondary reference to show that the filter media can be foam gasket. Reeves further discloses an adhesive formed upon the foam gasket for attaching the air filter system to an air supply ventilation nozzle. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply an adhesive as taught by Reeves upon the foam gasket of the air filter system of Sinclair since the adhesive promotes the attachment of the filter media to the ventilation nozzle without the need of any tools.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 9-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21-27, 31-48 and 50 have been thoroughly considered but are moot in view of the rejection as discussed above.

Claims 7, 8, 14, 17, 20, 28-30 and 49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit : 1724
December 6, 2005